



**We teach
the Bible**

the Southwood Messenger

Southwood Christian Church

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Mark: My Words

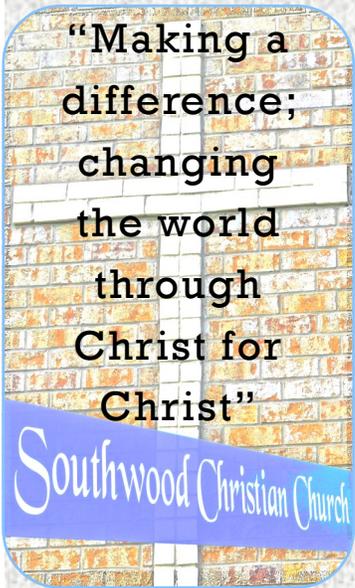
"Mark: My Words"

Dear Southwood brothers and sisters,

Happy New Year, all! I'm just getting to the end of my "off-time" and looking forward to having sweet Christian fellowship with all of you again as well as being in the pulpit again this Sunday. We took a break from our exposition of Mark's Gospel last December in order to do a series of Advent sermons, and we will also be taking the four Sundays in January to look at some life-changing words from Proverbs for the New Year before jumping back into the Gospel of Mark. I am fairly chomping at the bit to do this, and am looking at the possibility of finishing up Mark's Gospel by April at the latest before moving into our next theme. My mind is swimming with the possibilities, and not just in the sermon topics (ha!)...I firmly believe that the Lord is calling us as a congregation and as Christian individuals to a deeper level of commitment this year.

We have all experienced some difficult times in the past twelve months. Some of us bear the scars of broken relationships, painful tragedies, family discord, joblessness, health issues, and other tough times. Some have also experienced good times--unexpected blessings, spiritual growth, new friendships, answered prayers, or healing and provision that we knew were humanly impossible. ALL of us who believe on Jesus know that the time will come when all of the former category will pass away, and the latter category will be our everyday circumstances! But while we are here, we must (as Paul says) "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

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**"Making a
difference;
changing
the world
through
Christ for
Christ"**

Southwood Christian Church

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Every day has its challenges, but we don't have to rely on our temporary victories, knowing that God has made us "more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37)! This year will certainly be replete with these challenges, and I want to encourage you all that we stick together and weather the storms of life together through the grace of God. We must "carry our own load", while at the same time "sharing one another's burdens". I look forward to spending this year getting to know many of you better than before, and walking with you (and you with me) deeper into the delicious mercy and riches of Christ. In the meantime, let's all resolve to follow Proverbs 3:5-12 (which is also my sermon fodder for the

.. God has made us "more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

next four Sundays)... "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

I love you all in Christ! Your brother, -m



Southwood Family, remember that Wednesday, January 16th will be the first official night of The Truth Project, a video series that we will be showing AT church for all of us to come and watch together! The Truth Project is an excellent video series put together by Focus On The Family, and it discusses the many different spheres we deal with each day, such as family, government, recreation, music, work, etc., and how they should interact with our faith in Jesus Christ, which is the overarching theme of our lives. After the video, we will have discussion for a few minutes, but we will be done before eight each time and child care will be provided so all of you young couples with kids will get to participate without distraction! The video series is 13 weeks (we will take off a week over spring break), so please plan on attending as many as your schedule will allow. This is a wonderful series and if you are a Christian I truly believe that you will experience spiritual growth! Please plan to attend, and invite friends!

January Schedule

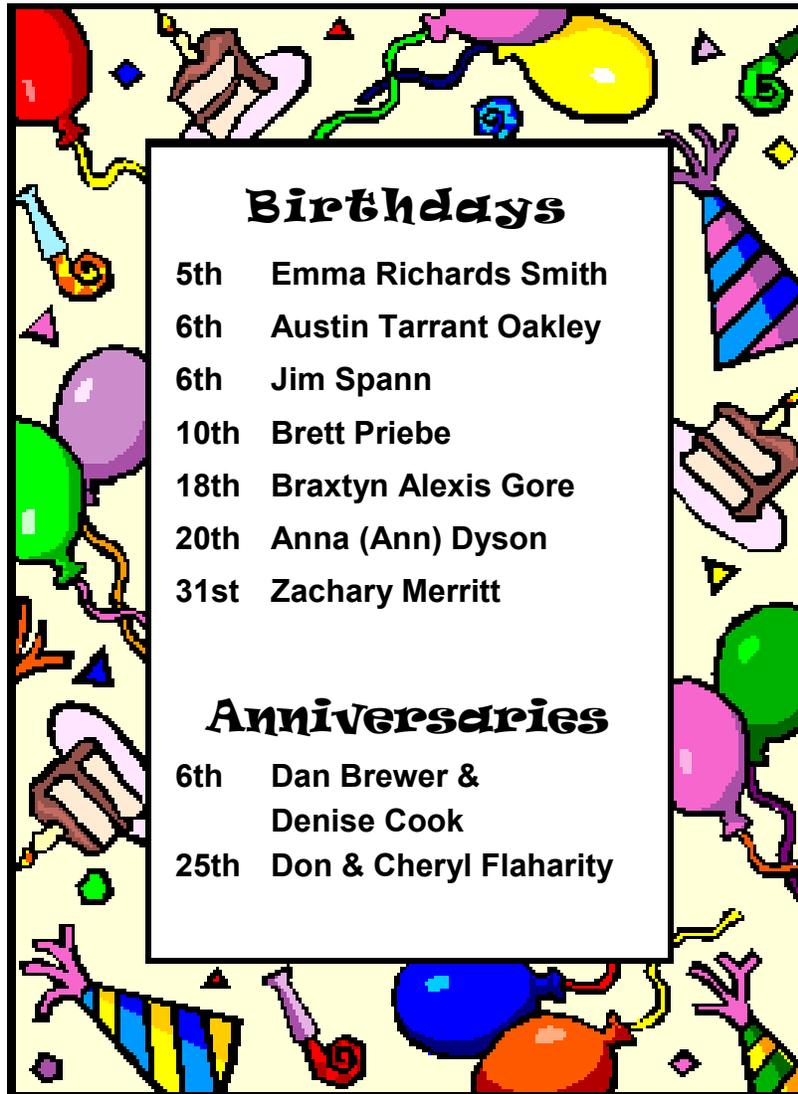
January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Ladies ONO dinner	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Begin Truth Project	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Truth Project	24	25	26
27 Church Congre- gation meeting	28	29	30 Truth Project	31		

Scheduled Events

- January 8, 6:30 pm Ladies ONO dinner
Royal Garden Restaurant
- January 16, 7:00 pm 13-Week, "The Truth Project" begins for youth and adult
- January 27, noon Church congregational meeting and pizza lunch
(provided by the church)

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

5th Emma Richards Smith
6th Austin Tarrant Oakley
6th Jim Spann
10th Brett Priebe
18th Braxtyn Alexis Gore
20th Anna (Ann) Dyson
31st Zachary Merritt

Anniversaries

6th Dan Brewer &
Denise Cook
25th Don & Cheryl Flaharity

Sunday School age limits

Nursery (infants to 2 years)

Ages 2-4

K through 3rd grade

4th through 7th grades

High School and young adult

Adults

A kids sermon/worship time is available for ages 4 through 2nd grade during the adult sermon time.

